

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 H-01 /088 W

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R 111810Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 619

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EEC, COMECOM

SUBJECT: INITIAL MEETING BETWEEN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND COMECON

1. KAWAN OF EC COMMISSION, WHO WAS A MEMBER OF FOUR-

MAN EC DELEGATION LED BY WELLENSTEIN, PROVIDED US

DETAILS ON FIRST TALKS WITH COMECON OFFICIALS. HIS

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DESCRIPTIONIS CONSISTENT WITH PRESS REPORTS, I.E.,

COMECON GROUP WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ONLY TECHNICAL DETAILS OF VISIT BY PRESIDENT ORTOLI, WHILE WELLEN-STEIN WAS DETERMINED TO TAKE UP SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS AND HAD BORAD AUTHORITY TO DO SO.

2. KAWAN SAID MOST OF COMECON GROUP WAS INIMPRESSIVE AGING BUREAUCRATS NO HIGHER THAN DEPARTMENT HEADS. THEY WERE AMAZED THAT EC HAD SPECIFIC POSITION PAPERS AND PROPOSALS, AND REMARKED THAT EC MUST HABE SPEND A YEAR IN PRPARATION FOR MEETING. WHEN THEY TRIDE TO CONFIRM DISCUSSION TO ORTOLI'S SCHEDULE, WELLENSTEIN SAID ABRUPTLY HE WAS NOT INTERESTED AND HAD NOT COME TO MOSCOW FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. EC GROUP INSISTED ON BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS DESPITE COMECON EFFORT TO FILL TIME WITH SIGHTSEEING AND CULTURAL EVENTS. COMECON GROUP WAS FORCED TO BRING IN SPECIALISTS ON TOPICS EC RAISED AND THESE SPECIALISTS DID PROVIDE USEFUL DETAILS ON COMECON ACTIVITY IN VARIOUS AREAS, NOTWITHSTANDING EFFORTS OF COMECON DELEGATION LEADERS TO CUT THEM SHORT.

4. SIX-HOUR DEADLOCK OVER PRESS COMMUNIQUE RESULTED FROM COMECON'S INSISTENCE ON LIMITING IT TO STATEMENT THAT GROUPS (COMECON REFUSED TO REGARD THEM AS "DELEGATIONS") HAD DISCUSSED ORTOLI'S SCHEDULE, WHTHON REFERRING TO SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS.

5. EC HAD DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING EVEN NAMES OF OFFICIALS THEY WERE DEALING WITH. AFTER PRESSING, THEY WERE FINALLY GIVEN LIST OF 31 OFFICIALS IN CYRILLIC BUT WITHOUT TITLES. ASKING FOR ORGANIZATION CHART OF COMECON, THEIR ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO ROUGH ONE IN FEDEYEV'S BOOK ON COMECON LACKING NAMES.

6. KAWAN SAW SOME BENEFITS FROM MEETING: (A) IT FORSTALLED A "DISASTROUS" VISIT BY ORTOLI; (B) EC HAD MANAGED TO OBTAIN HIGHLY USEFUL INSIGHTS INTO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DYNAMICS AND LIMITATIONS OF COMECON; (C) EVERY WORD WAS TRANSCRIBED BY STENOGRAPHERS AND HOPEFULLY PRESENTATIONS BY EC ON ITS WORKINGS WOULD BE WIDELY CIRCULATED AND HELP DISPEL IGNORANCE THEY FOUND AMONG COMECON AFFOCIALDOM.

7. ASKED WHY EC TAKING SUCH PAINS TO DEVELOP CONTACTS WITH INFERIOR ORGANIZATION LIKE COMECON, KAWAN SAID

THAT, ONCE COMECON HAD MADE INITIAL OVERTURES, PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED EC NOT TO FOLLOW UP. MOREOVER, SNUBBING OF COMECON WOULD HAVE COMPLICATED EC EFFORTS TO ENTER INTO BILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: KAWAN ASKED IF WE HAD SUCCEEDED IN FILLING IN MEANINGFUL COMECON ORGANIZATION CHART. IF AVAILABLE, CAN ONE BE PROVIDED US FOR DELIVER TO HIM AND POSSIBLY TO USEC FOR DELIVERY IN BRUSSELS AS WELL? KAWAN ALSO SAID EC WOULD BE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF ANY INFO WE PICK UP ON WAY EAST IS PLAYING RESULTS OF MEETING. DALE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975GENEVA00894  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750050-0257  
**From:** GENEVA  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750255/aaaabwtm.tel  
**Line Count:** 128  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <15 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INITIAL MEETING BETWEEN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND COMECON  
**TAGS:** OCON, EEC, COMECON  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006